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Discussions held during the nineteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the theme of the 2016 session of the Economic and Social Council, "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results"

Note by the Secretary-General

On 19 December 2014, the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed letters to the Chairs of the functional commissions of the Council requesting them to provide a contribution to the Council, for its consideration at the high-level segment, on the theme of the 2016 session, "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results".

The present note, prepared in response to that request, provides the Chair's summary of the discussions held at two events organized during the nineteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, held in Geneva from 9 to 13 May 2016:

(a) Ministerial round table entitled "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results";

(b) Panel discussion on the priority themes of the nineteenth session: "Smart cities and infrastructure" and "Foresight for digital development".

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Summary by the Chair of the discussions held during the nineteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the theme of the 2016 session of the Economic and Social Council, "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results"

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development held its nineteenth session in Geneva, from 9 to 13 May 2016. On 9 May, a ministerial round table was convened on the theme "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results" as a substantive contribution to the Economic and Social Council, for its consideration during the high-level segment on the same theme. On 11 May, the Commission held two panel discussions to discuss the two priority themes of the nineteenth session: "Smart cities and infrastructure" and "Foresight for digital development" (for the list of participants to the round table and the panel discussion see E/2016/31-E/CN.16/2016/4).

2. The participants highlighted the critical role of science, technology and innovation at all levels of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Member State representatives highlighted the key areas, in their specific national contexts, where science, technology and innovation could make the biggest contribution. Some of the critical areas highlighted included, inter alia, reducing poverty, creating new jobs, increasing economic competiveness, mitigation and adaptation efforts related to climate change, reducing the risk of natural hazards and disasters, creating sustainable urbanization, promoting cleaner sources of energy, addressing health issues, ensuring the sustainability of production and consumption patterns, creating a fair and just society, increasing agricultural productivity and ensuring food security. The fact that those issues overlapped and covered elements of all the Sustainable Development Goals, underscored the fact that without a strong push for improvements in science, technology and innovation, the Goals cannot be attained.

3. The discussions of the round table revealed some important priority considerations for policymakers to address in order to harness the full potential of science, technology and innovation in transforming the promises reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals into results. The issues include nationalizing and contextualizing the Goals, the bridging of technological and digital divides, building capacity in basic science and innovation culture, increasing financial investment and strengthening complementary infrastructure to promote science, technology and innovation, exploring the gender dimensions of the Goals, making sustainable urbanization a key agenda for the local science, technology and innovation community, using technology foresight effectively to maximize benefits and minimize the risk of technology, promoting new models of collaboration in science, technology and innovation, fully exploiting synergies between all United Nations efforts relating to science, technology and innovation and improving the science-policy interface. The present summary elaborates upon those themes.

Nationalizing and contextualizing the Sustainable Development Goals

4. The first step identified by many countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is that of nationalizing and contextualizing the

Sustainable Development Goals at the country level. The process needed to be launched as a matter of urgency within all countries, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. Participants gave several examples of how they planned to integrate the Goals within national development plans and vision documents. For example, in Botswana, the eleventh national development plan and a new national development vision document would be launched in the upcoming year. The key policy documents would take on board the development framework outlined in the 2030 Agenda. Ethiopia would also be giving great emphasis to the Goals as the country embarked on the development of its next national development plan. In that process, the local science, technology and innovation community would have an important role to play, especially in terms of identifying which targets of the Goals would be locally relevant and in terms of monitoring them. Furthermore, the national innovation strategies and science, technology and innovation policies needed to be reviewed so that the Goals were integrated as priorities within them.

Bridging of technological and digital divides

5. Participants noted that while progress has been made in terms of closing the technological gap in many parts of the world, a considerable technological divide existed between and within countries. The digital divide between and within countries was a case highlighted by several participants. Such divides often act impediments to harnessing the potential of science, technology and innovation for such processes as the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Some important ways to bridge the technological divide were highlighted, such as the strengthening of human resources by empowering those entering or in the labour market with required skills, especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, the strengthening of intellectual property rights and enabling affordable access to high impact technology for developing countries, through international collaborations.

Building capacity in basic science and promoting a culture of innovation

6. The importance of basic science, research capacity and a culture of innovation within a country cannot be overemphasized. Many participants noted that the lack of capacity in basic science and research is limiting the potential of science, technology and innovation to address development problems, especially in developing countries. Some countries raised concern that this might in fact compromise the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Several participants reported on their efforts at the national level to strengthen such fundamental science, technology and innovation capacities. Efforts included promoting education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics at all levels and the setting up of research and development institutions and laboratories. Ethiopia reported on conducting a successful research and development and innovation survey at the national level to identify and address national science, technology and innovation capacity gaps. Sri Lanka revealed its plans to set up a national biotechnology laboratory to support the biotechnology innovation ecosystem of the country. Finally, participants emphasized the need for new curricula to give hands-on training to students and transform them into problem solvers. In the United States of America, the "Beyond traditional borders" initiative provided students with the opportunity to learn about health-care issues in the developing world and to design and implement health-care technologies and

educational programmes to address such issues. Another case that was discussed was that of "makerspaces" in schools in Armenia, as a way of exposing young schoolchildren to scientific research and innovation at an early stage.

Increasing financial investment and strengthening complementary infrastructure to promote science, technology and innovation

7. Participants highlighted the need to earmark and divert funding towards developing technological capacity that would have a strong impact on sustainable development. In that context, Morocco reported on recent efforts to boost clean alternative energy technologies, especially solar energy, in order to fuel green industrialization of the country using home-grown skills. The aim of the project, supported by the Government, is to make solar energy provide 40 per cent of Morocco's energy use in the near future. Along similar lines, Sweden is aiming to become the first world's first fossil-free welfare nation, by actively promoting cleaner energy. At the same time, the importance of developing complementary infrastructure to promote progress in science, technology and innovation was highlighted. For example, in biotechnology laboratories in Ghana, 30 per cent of the budget was spent on electricity, especially on maintaining generators owing to erratic power supply. With a more reliable power supply, more resources could be dedicated to the core functions of the laboratories. The need for a solid infrastructure for information and communications technology was highlighted as a prerequisite for a well-functioning science, technology and innovation ecosystem. The participants shared details of the digital strategies of Chile, Morocco, Rwanda and Sri Lanka and the Global Connect multi-stakeholder initiative launched by the United States, all of which aim to strengthen the backbone of the information and communications technology infrastructure. Among other complementary aspects of infrastructure highlighted by participants were the need for strong legal and institutional infrastructure to support and enable a culture of innovation within a country.

Exploring the gender dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals

8. In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, there was an urgent need to address the gender dimensions at all levels, from problem definition, priority-setting, funding decisions, gender integration, research methodology and the establishment of metrics to the measurement of impact. Science, technology and innovation could play a key role in mainstreaming gender issues in the path towards achieving the Goals. For instance, in cities, the data collected from various smart infrastructures could be used by the local science, technology and innovation community to design infrastructure systems that meet the specific needs of women users. Bringing women and girls into education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and into related fields would be a crucial way to harness science, technology and innovation for achieving the Goals. There was a proposal to revisit and reassess the past work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on gender and science, technology and innovation[1] in the context of the Millennium Development Goals, in order to derive policy lessons in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. New curricula that emphasize the scope of

[1] See, for example, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, "Applying a Gender Lens to Science, Technology and Innovation", UNCTAD Current Studies on Science, Technology and Innovation, No. 5, available from http://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationArchive.aspx?publicationid=1450.

science, technology and innovation in solving sustainable development problems were recommended as a way to attract more women into the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Making sustainable urbanization a key agenda item for the local science, technology and innovation community

9. There was wide consensus among participants that without sustainable urban development there would be no sustainable development, as more than 50 per cent of the world's population currently lives in cities. In order to address emerging urban challenges, cities were embracing "smart city" visions and smart solutions. The role of the local science, technology and innovation community would be crucial in enabling such sustainable urbanization efforts through, inter alia, helping to develop locally relevant smart infrastructure and helping to design inclusive infrastructure that would meet the needs of the marginalized sections of society, including women, older persons and persons with disabilities. The science, technology and innovation community could also help to develop platforms for participatory governance and bottom-up governance processes, build requisite interdisciplinary skills and identify innovative ways to raise finances. Several Member States, including Austria, Chile, Thailand, India, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cuba, Germany, Nigeria, Poland, Oman and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland shared their national smart city projects and the role of the science, technology and innovation community in realizing such projects. Several caveats were raised during the discussions. For example, a panellist highlighted the need to balance citizens' rights to land and livelihoods with the economic imperative of smart cities and to integrate input from in-depth social research into "smart cities" agendas. Another panellist highlighted the need to break down complicated urban policies into simple rules and advocated creating an enabling environment for the scaling up of small-scale urban innovations. The specific smart city visions of the city of Chicago, United States, and of Kampala were shared by city administrators. Both experiences revealed that smart city projects and urban challenges presented an opportune platform for city administrators and the science, technology and innovation community to work together and create locally appropriate innovations.

Using technology foresight effectively to maximize the benefits and minimize the risk of technology

10. While technology could be a powerful enabler for sustainable development, it could also pose several risks and challenges. In that context, foresight could be a critical tool to help countries understand how technology evolves and how that knowledge could be leveraged for public policy. Foresight could help identify technological development and the impact thereof, but its most significant feature was that, when implemented in coherence with public policies, foresight could help to shape the future for countries in a desirable way. Countries shared experiences of the application of foresight in their national contexts. For example, Turkey explained that the national science, technology and innovation strategy was crafted using a technology foresight exercise and recommended the use of a multilayered integrated approach towards foresight exercises. In the United Kingdom, the relevance of foresight had been recognized many years earlier and it had been well institutionalized into policymaking. Some of the emerging digital trends, including

three-dimensional printing, big data, the "Internet of things", digital automation and massive open online courses, were discussed during the panel discussion. Those technologies held great potential for sustainable development. For example, they had been used to develop microinsurance products in Africa, predict the outbreak of diseases and promote the mass customization of products. In order to harness such benefits, however, countries would need both hard and soft complementary infrastructure. At the same time, emerging trends created risks associated with the disruption of employment patterns, data protection and privacy issues. One of the panellists reminded the audience to be mindful of the widening digital divide (when measured in terms of bandwidth) and of the limitations of big data, especially of the fact that big data is not forward looking. Another panellist stated that emerging digital trends tended to transfer risks to employees and that those welfare implications needed to be studied in greater detail. The visibility gap between North and South as regards the "Internet of things" and the low score of developing countries on the Networked Readiness Index, in terms of big data, were highlighted by another panellist. In order to mitigate such gaps, the panellist called for efficient capacity-building, a strong willingness to support emerging technologies, support for moving research from proof-of-concept to the local industry and designing regulations and policies suited to local needs.

Promoting new models of collaboration in science, technology and innovation

11. Participants called for new innovative models for collaboration in science, technology and innovation. Those should include, inter alia, North-South and South-South collaborations with the active participation of all relevant stakeholders. Participants highlighted some examples of new models of partnerships. The Global Connect multi-stakeholder partnership launched by the United States was a collaborative effort between 30 developed and developing countries and leading technology firms to double public and private funding for connectivity, with the aim of connecting 1.5 billion people by 2020. The success of incubators and science, technology and innovation parks in bringing together innovators, regulators, entrepreneurs and patent officials to foster innovation in the cases of Georgia, Thailand, the Islamic Republic of Iran and China were discussed. The example of Global Innovation Exchange, an online platform to share innovative ideas and secure finances for the same, was also discussed. Country groups were also engaging in new collaborations and initiatives in the science, technology and innovation field at the global level. For example, during China's presidency of the Group of 20, a ministerial conference on science, technology and innovation would be organized, in 2016, to highlight the potential of science, technology and innovation for responding to development challenges. Sweden shared the importance of "Grand Challenges" on different sustainable development issues as an instrument that could bring together different stakeholders and stimulate cross-sector innovation. The International Council for Science shared its experience with regard to new collaborations, such as the International Network for Government Science Advice and "Future Earth", an international research platform. There was broad consensus that such collaborations needed to be encouraged in order to tackle the challenges of sustainable development, which cut across national boundaries and the boundaries of traditional disciplines.

Fully exploiting synergies between all United Nations efforts relating to science, technology and innovation

12. Participants noted with appreciation the efforts made by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, especially in terms of the science, technology and innovation policy reviews in enhancing science, technology and innovation policy capacity. Several countries, including Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius and Pakistan expressed interest in science, technology and innovation policy reviews being undertaken in those countries in the future. The session also took note of the newly established Technology Facilitation Mechanism of the United Nations as well as science, technology and innovation capacity-building efforts organized by other United Nations system entities, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. There was general consensus that the Technology Facilitation Mechanism opened up new opportunities for synergies, through collaboration and cooperation of the Mechanism with the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and that every possible effort should be made to realize that potential by combining efforts and minimizing any possible risk of duplication or overlap. The participants called for the active involvement of all members of the Commission in the first annual multi-stakeholder forum of the United Nations on science, technology and innovation, to be held in New York on 6 and 7 June 2016.

Improving the science-policy interface

13. Participants broadly agreed that there was a need for policies to be able to keep up with technology and to improve the science-policy interface. New policies that would foster innovation needed to be devised and there should be regular feedback mechanisms between the fields of science and policy. New theoretical and practical approaches to the use of scientific evidence in informing policy at all levels of government would be required. Policymakers needed to know how to harness the strengths of big data and data analytics in their decision-making. Active technology assessments and technology foresight exercises needed to be well integrated into national policymaking processes. At the same time, scientists and researchers needed to be aware of what kind of information was required by policymakers and to adjust their research priorities. For example, in the case of addressing the risks posed by natural disasters originating from climate change, better subnational climate modelling was needed to identify the human and economic impacts, as were improved early warning systems. Such information could help to make more informed policy decisions with regard to mitigation, adaptation and disaster management.

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High-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council

Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/1, the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the United Nations system, has the honour to submit the report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The present report is the first annual report on the topic and provides a global overview of the current situation regarding the Sustainable Development Goals, on the basis of the latest available data for indicators in the proposed global framework. The report also highlights the theme of the 2016 session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, "Ensuring that no one is left behind", through examples of disaggregated data that pinpoint where specific population groups are lagging behind. Finally, the report provides information on the methodologies used for the compilation of global indicators as well as an overview of data availability and statistical challenges.

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I. Introduction

1. In General Assembly resolution 70/1, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", a new, ambitious and universal development agenda is outlined for the global community. The implementation of that bold and transformative plan of action over the next 15 years could shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path, leaving no one behind.

2. In order to promote accountability to their citizens, Member States committed to providing for systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels (see General Assembly resolution 70/1, para. 47). The high-level political forum on sustainable development was mandated to play the central role in overseeing follow-up and review processes at the global level. A key component of the process is an annual progress report, prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the United Nations system (ibid., para. 83), which will inform the follow-up and review in the context of the high-level political forum. The progress report is to be based on a proposed global indicator framework developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (see E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1, annex IV), which was agreed to, as a practical starting point, at the forty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission, held in March 2016 (see E/2016/24, chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/101).

3. The present report, as mandated, presents the first overview of the current global situation relative to the 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda, on the basis of the global indicators. Some targets are not reflected at this initial stage, owing to a lack of data, or because they are measured by indicators that are still undergoing methodological development (see also sect. IV of the report). For most indicators presented in the report, values represent regional and/or subregional aggregates (see also para. 139 of the report). They are calculated from national data collected by international agencies, based on their respective mandates and specialized expertise, from national statistical systems.[1] The national data are often adjusted for international comparability and, where lacking, estimations are made by international agencies.

4. The report comprises three sections that discuss global issues relative to the Sustainable Development Goals. Section II summarizes the regional and global status and trends for each Goal, based on selected indicators for which data are available. Following the main theme of the 2016 session of the high-level political forum, section III highlights some of the inequalities found across Goals and targets, based on existing disaggregated data. Section IV details the availability and compilation of data used to measure the global indicators. It also describes the challenges faced by national statistical offices and the international statistical community in producing the indicators for the Goals, as well as global initiatives under way to address those challenges.[2]

[1] Data are provided by international agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations. The full list of contributing organizations will be made available at: http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/.

[2] A supplementary document (in English only) containing the statistical annex of global and regional data for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, based on the latest available data, is available from: http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/.

II. Measuring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

5. Goal 1 calls for an end to poverty in all its manifestations by 2030. It also aims to ensure social protection for the poor and vulnerable, increase access to basic services and support people harmed by climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

6. The international poverty line is currently defined at $1.90 or below per person per day using 2011 United States dollars purchasing power parity (ppp).[3] In the decade beginning in 2002, the proportion of the world's population living below the poverty line dropped by half, from 26 per cent to 13 per cent. If growth rates during those 10 years prevail for the next 15 years, the global extreme poverty rate will likely fall to 4 per cent by 2030, assuming that growth benefits all income groups of the population equally. However, if the growth rates over the longer period of 20 years prevail, the global poverty rate will likely be around 6 per cent. In other words, eliminating extreme poverty will require a significant change from historical growth rates.

7. In 2015, 10.2 per cent of the world's workers were living with their families on less than $1.90 per person per day, down from 28 per cent in 2000. Young people are especially likely to be among the working poor: 16 per cent of all employed youth aged 15 to 24 were considered working poor, compared to 9 per cent of adults.

8. Expanding social protection programmes and targeting appropriate schemes to the poor and most vulnerable can further reduce poverty. Social protection programmes include social assistance, such as cash transfers, school feeding and targeted food assistance, as well as social insurance and labour market programmes, including old-age pensions, disability pensions, unemployment insurance, skills training and wage subsidies, among others.

9. Social protections have expanded globally since 2000, as many developing countries adopted policies that afford protection for multiple contingencies. Pension coverage in particular is expanding rapidly. Over half (51 per cent) of people above retirement age received a pension according to data available for the period from 2010 to 2012. Almost all countries have child or maternity benefit programmes, and cash transfer schemes are increasing.

10. Despite progress over the past decade, increasing social protection for those most in need remains a priority. Globally, 18,000 children still die each day from poverty-related causes, and only 28 per cent of employed women are effectively protected through contributory and non-contributory maternity cash benefits. Most poor people remain outside social protection systems, especially in low-income countries. Of the entire population, only 1 out of 5 receive any type of social protection in low-income countries, compared with 2 out of 3 in upper-middle-income countries. The coverage gap is particularly acute in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, where most of the world's poorest people live. In sub-Saharan

[3] See www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/brief/global-poverty-line-faq.

Africa, only 15 per cent of those in the bottom income quintile have access to a social protection benefit.

11. Disaster risk reduction is essential to ending poverty and fostering sustainable development. Disaster risk is disproportionally higher in poorer countries with weaker institutions. In low- and lower-middle-income countries experiencing rapid economic growth, the exposure of people and assets to natural hazards is increasing at a faster pace than that at which risk-reducing capacities are being strengthened, leading to increased disaster risk.

12. Economic losses from internationally reported disasters, principally large-scale disasters, have grown steadily since 1990, reaching an estimated annual average of $200 billion in 2013. Reported damage to housing, schools and health-care facilities, along with agricultural production, shows statistically significant upward trends from 1990 onwards.

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

13. Goal 2 aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. It also commits to universal access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food at all times of the year. This will require sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices, equal access to land, technology and markets and international cooperation on investments in infrastructure and technology to boost agricultural productivity.

14. The fight against hunger has progressed over the past 15 years. Globally, the prevalence of hunger has declined, from 15 per cent according to figures for 2000 to 2002, to 11 per cent according to figures for 2014 to 2016. However, more than 790 million people worldwide still lack regular access to adequate amounts of dietary energy. If current trends continue, the zero hunger target will be largely missed by 2030. Many countries that failed to reach the target set as part of the Millennium Development Goals, of halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, have faced natural and human-induced disasters or political instability, resulting in protracted crises, with increased vulnerability and food insecurity affecting large parts of the population. The persistence of hunger is no longer simply a matter of food availability. More and better data on access to food can enable the tracking of progress and guide interventions to fight food insecurity and malnutrition.

15. Globally, in 2014, nearly 1 in 4 children under the age of 5, an estimated total of 159 million children, had stunted growth. Stunting is defined as inadequate height for age, an indicator of the cumulative effects of undernutrition and infection. Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa accounted for three quarters of the children under 5 with stunted growth in 2014. Another aspect of child malnutrition is the growing share of children who are overweight, a problem affecting nearly every region. Globally, between 2000 and 2014, the percentage of children under the age of 5 who were overweight grew from 5.1 per cent to 6.1 per cent.

16. Ending hunger and malnutrition relies heavily on sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices. Genetic diversity in livestock breeds is crucial for agriculture and food production since it allows for the raising of farm animals in a wide range of environments and provides the basis for diverse products and services. Globally, 20 per cent of local livestock breeds, meaning breeds

reported in only one country, are at risk of extinction. Another 16 per cent of breeds are stable, and the status of the remaining local breeds is unknown owing to a lack of data. The figures exclude livestock breeds that have already become extinct.

17. To increase the productive capacity of agriculture, more investment is needed, both public and private, from domestic and foreign sources. However, recent trends in government spending are not favourable. The agriculture orientation index, defined as agriculture's share of government expenditures divided by the sector's share of gross domestic product (GDP), fell globally from 0.37 to 0.25 between 2001 and 2013. The decline in the index was interrupted only temporarily during the food price crisis of 2006 to 2008, when governments increased agricultural spending.

18. Since the late 1990s, the percentage of aid for supporting agriculture in developing countries has been stable at around 8 per cent, when measured as a share of sector-allocable aid from member countries of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This has decreased, from a peak of 20 per cent in the mid-1980s, as a result of donors beginning to focus more on improving governance, building social capital and bolstering fragile States.

19. One of the targets for Goal 2 calls for correcting and preventing distortions in world agricultural markets, including the elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies. Those subsidies mask market signals, reduce competitiveness and can lead to environmental damage and the inequitable distribution of benefits. That said, some progress is being made, with members of the World Trade Organization adopting a ministerial decision, in December 2015, on eliminating export subsidies for agricultural products and restraining export measures that have an equivalent effect.

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

20. Goal 3 seeks to ensure health and well-being for all, at every stage of life. The Goal addresses all major health priorities, including reproductive, maternal and child health; communicable, non-communicable and environmental diseases; universal health coverage; and access for all to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines. It also calls for more research and development, increased health financing, and strengthened capacity of all countries in health risk reduction and management.

21. Between 2000 and 2015, the global maternal mortality ratio, or number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, declined by 37 per cent, to an estimated ratio of 216 per 100,000 live births in 2015. Almost all maternal deaths occur in low-resource settings and can be prevented. Globally, 3 out of 4 births were assisted by skilled health-care personnel in 2015. Under-five mortality rates fell rapidly from 2000 to 2015, declining by 44 per cent globally. Nevertheless, an estimated 5.9 million children under the age of 5 died in 2015, with a global under-five mortality rate of 43 per 1,000 live births. The neonatal mortality rate, that is, the likelihood of dying in the first 28 days of life, declined from 31 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 19 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015. Over that period, progress in the rate of child survival among children aged 1 to 59 months outpaced advances in reducing neonatal mortality; as a result, neonatal deaths now represent a larger share (45 per cent) of all under-five deaths.

22. Preventing unintended pregnancy and reducing adolescent childbearing through universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services are critical to further advances in the health of women, children and adolescents. Worldwide, in 2015, approximately 3 in 4 women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years of age) who were married or in union satisfied their need for family planning by using modern contraceptive methods; in sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania, however, the share was less than half. Childbearing in adolescence has steadily declined in almost all regions, but wide disparities persist: in 2015, the birth rate among adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 ranged from 7 births per 1,000 girls in Eastern Asia to 102 births per 1,000 girls in sub-Saharan Africa.

23. The incidence of major infectious diseases, including HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, has declined globally since 2000. Globally in 2015, the number of new HIV infections among all people was 0.3 new infections per 1,000 uninfected people; 2.1 million people became newly infected that year. The incidence of HIV was highest in sub-Saharan Africa, with 1.5 new cases per 1,000 uninfected people. In 2014, 9.6 million new cases of tuberculosis (133 cases per 100,000 people) were reported worldwide, with 58 per cent of them in South-Eastern Asia and the Western Pacific. Almost half the world's population is at risk of malaria and, in 2015, the incidence rate was 91 new cases per 1,000 people at risk, an estimated total of 214 million cases. Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 89 per cent of all malaria cases worldwide, with an incidence rate of 235 cases per 1,000 people at risk. In 2014, at least 1.7 billion people, in 185 countries, required treatment for at least one neglected tropical disease.[4]

24. According to estimates from 2012, around 38 million deaths per year, accounting for 68 per cent of all deaths worldwide, were attributable to non-communicable diseases. Of all deaths among persons under the age of 70, commonly referred to as premature deaths, an estimated 52 per cent were as a result of non-communicable diseases. Over three quarters of premature deaths were caused by cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory disease. Globally, premature mortality from those four main categories of non-communicable disease declined by 15 per cent between 2000 and 2012. Reducing tobacco use will be critical for meeting the proposed target of reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one third. In 2015, over 1.1 billion people consumed tobacco, with far more male (945 million) than female (180 million) smokers.

25. Unhealthy environmental conditions increase the risk of both non-communicable and infectious diseases, which is reflected in the strong integrated nature of the Goals. In 2012, an estimated 889,000 people died from infectious diseases caused largely by faecal contamination of water and soil and by inadequate hand-washing facilities and practices resulting from poor or non-existent sanitation services. In 2012, household and ambient air pollution resulted in some 6.5 million deaths.

26. Substance use and substance-use disorders have also created a significant public health burden. Worldwide, average alcohol consumption in 2015 was estimated at 6.3l of pure alcohol per person among those aged 15 or older, with

[4] The term refers to a diverse group of infections that are common among poor and marginalized populations but have not attracted the same treatment and research funding as HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

wide variations across countries. Alcohol consumption was highest in the developed regions (10.4l per person) and lowest in Northern Africa (0.5l per person). In 2013, only about 1 in 6 people worldwide suffering from drug-use disorders received treatment. Approximately 1 in 18 people with drug-use disorders received treatment in Africa that year, compared with 1 in 5 in Western and Central Europe.

27. Mental disorders occur in all regions and cultures. The most common are anxiety and depression, which, not infrequently, can lead to suicide. In 2012, an estimated 800,000 people worldwide committed suicide, and 86 per cent of them were under the age of 70. Globally, suicide is the second leading cause of death among those between the ages of 15 and 29.

28. Around 1.25 million people died from road traffic injuries in 2013. Halving the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2020 is an ambitious goal given the dramatic increase in the number of vehicles, which nearly doubled between 2000 and 2013.

29. Total official flows from all providers for medical research and basic health sectors were $8.9 billion in 2014. Within this total, official development assistance (ODA) from DAC donors was $4.5 billion in 2014, an increase of 20 per cent in real terms since 2010, with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America accounting for $2.6 billion of that total. In 2014, $1 billion was spent on malaria control and $1.2 billion was spent on other infectious diseases, excluding AIDS.

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong opportunities for all

30. Despite progress, the world failed to meet the Millennium Development Goal of achieving universal primary education by 2015. In 2013, the latest year for which data are available, 59 million children of primary-school age were out of school. Estimates show that, among those 59 million children, 1 in 5 of those children had dropped out and recent trends suggest that 2 in 5 of out-of-school children will never set foot in a classroom. The Sustainable Development Goals clearly recognize that this gap must be closed, even as the international community more explicitly addresses the challenges of quality and equity.

31. Measuring learning achievement, starting in the early grades, will help to identify where schools are failing to meet their commitments to children and to formulate appropriate remedial action. For example, data for 2013 from 15 Latin American countries show that in six countries, fewer than 50 per cent of third graders had a minimum level of proficiency in mathematics; in three countries, fewer than half were proficient in reading.

32. At the end of primary school, children should be able to read and write and to understand and use basic concepts in mathematics. However, in 2014, between 40 per cent and 90 per cent of children failed to achieve even minimum levels of proficiency in reading, in 10 African countries, and in nine of those countries, between 40 per cent and 90 per cent of children failed to achieve minimum levels of proficiency in mathematics.

33. The end of lower secondary education[5] often coincides with the end of compulsory education. By this stage, young people should be able to master subject-related knowledge and skills and possess personal and social skills. Data from 38 countries in the developed regions show that, in the majority of those countries, at least 75 per cent of young people achieved at least a minimum proficiency in reading and/or mathematics; the same was true for only 5 out of 22 countries, in developing regions, for which data were available.

34. Completion rates for both primary and lower secondary education has been rising steadily since 2000. Completion rates for primary education in both developed and developing regions exceeded 90 per cent in 2013. At the lower secondary level, the gap between developed and developing regions has narrowed substantially, but still stood at nearly 20 percentage points in 2013 (91 per cent for developed regions and 72 per cent for developing regions).

35. Quality early education provides children with basic cognitive and language skills and fosters emotional development. In the majority of the 58 countries with available data for the period 2009-2015, more than half of children between the ages of 3 and 4 were developmentally on track in at least three of the following domains: literacy, numeracy, physical development, social-emotional development and learning.

36. Goal 4 strongly supports the reduction of persistent disparities. Worldwide, in 2013, two thirds of the 757 million adults (aged 15 and over) who were unable to read and write were women. Globally, in 2013, 1 in 10 girls were out of school, compared to 1 in 12 boys. Children from the poorest 20 per cent of households are nearly four times more likely to be out of school than their richest peers. Out-of-school rates are also higher in rural areas and among children from households headed by someone with less than a primary education.

37. To fulfil the promise of universal primary and secondary education, new primary school teachers are needed, with current estimates showing a need for nearly 26 million of them by 2030. Africa faces the greatest challenges in this regard, with nearly 7 in 10 countries experiencing acute shortages of trained primary school teachers. In 2013, only 71 per cent of teachers in sub-Saharan Africa and 84 per cent in Northern Africa were trained in accordance with national standards.

38. Official development assistance for educational scholarships amounted to around $1.1 billion annually from 2011 to 2013. It totalled $1.2 billion in 2014, with Australia, France and Japan being the largest contributors.

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

39. Gender equality and women's empowerment have advanced in recent decades. Girls' access to education has improved, the rate of child marriage declined and progress was made in the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, including fewer maternal deaths. Nevertheless, gender equality remains a persistent challenge for countries worldwide and the lack of such equality is a major obstacle to sustainable development.

[5] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Institute of Statistics "International Standard Classification of Education 2011", available at www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/isced-2011-en.odf.

40. Assuring women's rights through legal frameworks is a first step in addressing discrimination against them. As of 2014, 143 countries guaranteed equality between men and women in their constitutions; another 52 countries have yet to make this important commitment. In 132 countries, the statutory legal age of marriage is equal for women and men, while in another 63 countries, the legal age of marriage is lower for women than for men.

41. Violence against women and girls violates their human rights and hinders development. Most such violence is perpetrated by intimate partners, with available data from surveys conducted between 2005 and 2015, in 52 countries, (including only one country from the developed regions) indicating that 21 per cent of girls and women aged between 15 and 49 experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner in the previous 12 months. Estimates on the risks of violence experienced by women with disabilities, women from ethnic minorities and among women above the age of 50 are not yet included, owing to data limitations. Additionally, human trafficking disproportionately affects women and girls, since 70 per cent of all victims detected worldwide are female.

42. Globally, the proportion of women aged between 20 and 24 who reported that they were married before their eighteenth birthday dropped from 32 per cent around 1990 to 26 per cent around 2015. Child marriage is most common in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, with 44 per cent of women married before their eighteenth birthday in Southern Asia and 37 per cent of women married before their eighteenth birthday in sub-Saharan Africa. The marriage of girls under the age 15 is also highest in those two regions, at 16 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively. Social norms can and do change, however, with the rate of marriage of girls under the age of 15 declining globally from 12 per cent around 1990 to 7 per cent around 2015, although disparities are found across regions and countries. The most rapid reduction in child marriage overall was recorded in Northern Africa, where the percentage of women married before the age of 18 dropped by more than half, from 29 per cent to 13 per cent, over the past 25 years.

43. The harmful practice of female genital mutilation/cutting is another human rights violation that affects girls and women worldwide. While the exact number of girls and women globally who have undergone the procedure is unknown, at least 200 million have been subjected to the procedure in 30 countries with representative prevalence data. Overall, rates of female genital mutilation/cutting have been declining over the past three decades. However, not all countries have made progress and the pace of decline has been uneven. Today, in the 30 countries, for which data were available, around 1 in 3 girls aged 15 to 19 have undergone the practice, versus 1 in 2 in the mid-1980s.

44. In every region, women and girls do the bulk of unpaid work, including caregiving and such household tasks as cooking and cleaning. On average, women report that they spend 19 per cent of their time each day in unpaid activities, versus 8 per cent for men. The responsibilities of unpaid care and domestic work, combined with paid work, means greater total work burdens for women and girls and less time for rest, self-care, learning and other activities.

45. Globally, women's participation in parliament rose to 23 per cent in 2016, representing an increase by 6 percentage points over a decade. Slow progress in this area is in contrast with more women in parliamentary leadership positions. In 2016, the number of women speakers of national parliaments jumped from 43 to 49 (out of

the 273 posts globally); women accounted for 18 per cent of all speakers of parliament in January 2016.

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

46. Water and sanitation are at the very core of sustainable development, critical to the survival of people and the planet. Goal 6 not only addresses the issues relating to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, but also the quality and sustainability of water resources worldwide.

47. In 2015, 4.9 billion people globally used an improved sanitation facility; 2.4 billion did not. Among those lacking adequate sanitation were 946 million people without any facilities at all, who continued to practise open defecation. In 2015, 68 per cent of the global population was using improved sanitation facilities compared to 59 per cent in 2000. Nevertheless, the unsafe management of faecal waste and wastewater continues to present a major risk to public health and the environment.

48. More progress has been made in access to drinking water. In 2015, 6.6 billion people, or 91 per cent of the global population, used an improved drinking water source, versus 82 per cent in 2000. Despite that improvement, an estimated 663 million people were using unimproved water sources or surface water that year. While coverage was around 90 per cent or more in all regions except sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania, widespread inequalities persist within and among countries. Moreover, not all improved sources are safe. For instance, in 2012 it was estimated that at least 1.8 billion people were exposed to drinking water sources contaminated with faecal matter.

49. Holistic management of the water cycle means taking into account the level of "water stress", calculated as the ratio of total fresh water withdrawn by all major sectors to the total renewable fresh water resources in a particular country or region. Currently, water stress affects more than 2 billion people around the world, a figure that is projected to rise. Already, water stress affects countries on every continent and hinders the sustainability of natural resources, as well as economic and social development. In 2011, 41 countries experienced water stress, an increase from 36 countries in 1998. Of those, 10 countries, on the Arabian Peninsula, in Central Asia and in Northern Africa, withdrew more than 100 per cent of their renewable fresh water resources.

50. Integrated water resources management, one of the follow-up actions to the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), aims to address this urgent situation. In 2012, 65 per cent of the 130 countries that responded to a survey question on integrated water resources management reported that management plans were in place at the national level.

51. Total official flows for water and sanitation were $10 billion in 2014, of which total aid flows from DAC donors amounted to $8 billion. Aid for water and sanitation nearly doubled as a share of ODA during the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990). Since that time, on average, it has remained at around 7 per cent of total aid flows. Better targeting and tracking of water aid within the context of national situations is needed. For instance, numerous

countries with limited access to water supply and/or sanitation have been receiving minimal external assistance (typically less than $2 per capita annually), while other countries with higher levels of access have received much more (at least $30 per capita a year).

52. Effective water and sanitation management also depends on the participation of stakeholders. According to a 2013-2014 Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water survey, 83 per cent of the 94 countries surveyed reported that procedures for stakeholder participation were clearly defined in law or policy. In the Sustainable Development Goals, the focus is being refined to also include the participation of local communities, which will be captured in the next cycle of Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water monitoring.

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

53. Energy is crucial for achieving almost all of the Sustainable Development Goals, from its role in the eradication of poverty through advancements in health, education, water supply and industrialization, to combating climate change.

54. The proportion of the global population with access to electricity has increased steadily, from 79 per cent in 2000 to 85 per cent in 2012. Still, 1.1 billion people are without this valuable service. Recent global progress in this area has been driven largely by Asia, where access is expanding at more than twice the pace of demographic growth. Of those gaining access to electricity worldwide since 2010, 80 per cent are urban dwellers.

55. The proportion of the world's population with access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking increased from 51 per cent in 2000 to 58 per cent in 2014, although there has been limited progress since 2010. The absolute number of people relying on polluting fuels and technologies for cooking, such as solid fuels and kerosene, however, has actually increased, reaching an estimated three billion people. Limited progress since 2010 falls substantially short of global population growth and is almost exclusively confined to urban areas.

56. The share of renewable energy (derived from hydropower, solid and liquid biofuels, wind, the sun, biogas, geothermal and marine sources, and waste) in the world's total final energy consumption has increased slowly, from 17.4 per cent in 2000 to 18.1 per cent in 2012. More telling is the fact that modern renewable energy consumption, which excludes solid biofuels used for traditional purposes, grew rapidly, at a rate of 4 per cent a year between 2010 and 2012, and accounted for 60 per cent of all new power-generating capacity in 2014. In absolute terms, about 72 per cent of the increase in energy consumption from modern renewable sources between 2010 and 2012 came from developing regions, mostly from Eastern Asia. The technologies making the largest contribution have been hydropower, wind and solar energy; together they account for 73 per cent of the total increase in modern renewable energy between 2010 and 2012.

57. Energy intensity, calculated by dividing total primary energy supply by GDP, reveals how much energy is used to produce one unit of economic output. Globally, energy intensity decreased by 1.7 per cent per year from 2010 to 2012. This represents a considerable improvement over the period from 1990 to 2010, when it decreased by 1.2 per cent a year. As a result, global energy intensity, which stood at

6.7 (millijoules (mJ) per 2011 United States dollar ppp) in 2000 fell to 5.7 by 2012. The proportion of the world's energy use covered by mandatory energy efficiency regulation, which has almost doubled over the past decade, from 14 per cent in 2005 to 27 per cent in 2014, was a factor. Still, current progress is only about two thirds of the pace needed to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. Among end-use sectors, industry was the largest contributor to reduced energy intensity, followed closely by transportation. About 68 per cent of the savings in energy intensity between 2010 and 2012 came from developing regions, with Eastern Asia as the largest contributor.

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

58. Sustained and inclusive economic growth is necessary for achieving sustainable development. The global annual growth rate of real GDP per capita increased by 1.3 per cent in 2014, a significant slowdown compared to 2010 (2.8 per cent growth) and 2000 (3.0 per cent growth). Developing regions grew far faster than developed regions, with average annual growth rates in 2014 of 3.1 per cent and 1.4 per cent, respectively.

59. Labour productivity (measured by GDP per worker) spurs economic growth. Growth in labour productivity in developing regions far outpaced that of developed regions, especially in Asia. Between 2010 and 2015, labour productivity grew by 0.9 per cent per year, on average, in developed regions, while rising by 6.7 per cent per year, on average, in Eastern Asia, the region with the fastest growth. Despite rapid growth in some developing regions, labour productivity remains far higher in the developed regions. In 2015, the average worker in developed regions produced 23 times the annual output of an average worker in sub-Saharan Africa (which has the lowest labour productivity in developing regions), and 2.5 times that of an average worker in Western Asia (which has the highest labour productivity in developing regions).

60. The global unemployment rate stood at 6.1 per cent in 2015, down from a peak of 6.6 per cent in 2009, mostly owing to a decline in unemployment in the developed regions. Unemployment affects population groups differently. Globally, women and youth (aged 15 to 24) are more likely to face unemployment than men and adults aged 25 and over. In all regions, except Eastern Asia and the developed regions, the unemployment rate among women is higher than that of men. In almost all regions, the rate of youth unemployment is more than twice that of adults.

61. Although the number of children engaged in child labour declined globally by one third from 2000 to 2012 (from 246 million to 168 million), more than half of child labourers in 2012 (85 million) were engaged in hazardous forms of work. The incidence of child labour was highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where 21 per cent of children were employed as child labourers. Of all child labourers worldwide, 59 per cent were engaged in agricultural activities in 2012.

62. While economic growth and employment are important for economic security, access to financial services is an essential component of inclusive growth. Between 2011 and 2014, the proportion of the world's adult population with an account at a financial institution or a mobile money service provider increased from 51 per cent to 62 per cent, meaning that 700 million adults became account holders during this period. Financial exclusion disproportionately affected women and the poor. The

proportion of women who are account holders is 9 percentage points lower than the proportion of men who are account holders. Moreover, the proportion of account holders among the poorest 40 per cent of households is 14 percentage points lower than among those living in the richest 60 per cent of households.

63. In 2014, aid for trade assistance was $54.8 billion, an increase of almost 120 per cent over the period from 2002 to 2005. However, total commitments fell slightly (by $1 billion) in 2014 compared to 2013, driven mainly by a $4.7 billion drop in support for transport and storage. A total of 146 developing countries received aid for trade assistance in 2014, with lower-middle-income countries receiving 39.4 per cent of the total, the least developed countries receiving 26.3 per cent and upper-middle-income countries receiving 19 per cent. On a per capita basis, however, the least developed countries received $10 per capita, more than any other income group and more than twice the global average.

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

64. Goal 9 encompasses three important aspects of sustainable development: infrastructure, industrialization and innovation. Infrastructure provides the basic physical systems and structures essential to the operation of a society or enterprise. Industrialization drives economic growth, creates job opportunities and thereby reduces income poverty. Innovation advances the technological capabilities of industrial sectors and prompts the development of new skills.

65. An important component of physical infrastructure is air shipping and air travel. In 2014, 45 per cent of all air passengers originated from developing regions; 55 per cent originated from developed regions. However, in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, air passenger volume was extremely low, making up only 0.8 per cent, 0.8 per cent and 1.4 per cent, respectively, of the global total. Similar patterns are found for freight volumes in air transit: the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States made up only 1.1 per cent, 0.9 per cent and 2.6 per cent of the global total, respectively, in 2014.

66. Manufacturing is a foundation of economic development, employment and social stability. In 2015, the share of manufacturing value added in terms of GDP of developed regions was estimated at 13 per cent, a decrease over the past decade owing largely to the increasing role of services in developed regions. In contrast, the share of manufacturing value added in GDP remained relatively stagnant for developing regions, increasing marginally from 19 per cent in 2005 to 21 per cent in 2015. Those values hide substantial differences, with manufacturing value added contributing over 31 per cent to GDP in Eastern Asia and 10 per cent or less in both sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania. The least developed countries face particular challenges in industrializing. Although those countries represent 13 per cent of the global population, they contribute less than 1 per cent of global manufacturing value added. Worldwide, about 500 million people are employed in manufacturing. While manufacturing job numbers have fallen in industrialized countries, they have steadily increased in developing countries. In the least developed countries, agricultural and traditional sectors remain the main sources of employment.

67. In developing countries, small-scale industries accounted for an estimated 15 per cent to 20 per cent of value added and 25 per cent to 30 per cent of total

industrial employment in 2015. However, access to financial services in those countries remains a problem. Globally, the credit gap for small and medium enterprises (defined as having between 5 and 99 employees) was estimated at $3.2 trillion to $3.9 trillion in 2012. In emerging markets, between 45 per cent and 55 per cent of all small and medium enterprises are unserved or underserved by financial services.

68. As the structure of world economies shifts to less energy-intensive industries and countries implement policies for enhanced energy efficiency, almost all regions have shown a reduction in carbon intensity of GDP. Global carbon dioxide emissions per unit of value added showed a steady decline between 1990 and 2013, a decrease of about 30 per cent.

69. Innovation and the creation of new and more sustainable industries are spurred by investments in research and development. Global expenditure on research and development as a proportion of GDP stood at 1.7 per cent in 2013. However, this figure masks wide disparities. expenditure on research and development was 2.4 per cent of GDP for developed regions, 1.2 per cent for developing regions, and below 0.3 per cent for the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. The number of researchers per 1 million inhabitants showed a similar pattern. While the global average was 1,083 researchers per 1 million inhabitants, the ratio ranged from 65 per 1 million in the least developed countries to 3,641 per 1 million in developed regions.

70. Total official flows for economic infrastructure in developing regions reached $59.5 billion in 2014. The main sectors receiving assistance were transport and energy.

71. Infrastructure and economic development also rely on information and communications technology. Mobile cellular services have spread rapidly around the world, allowing people in previously unconnected areas to join the global information society. By 2015, the percentage of the population living in areas covered by mobile broadband networks stood at 69 per cent globally. In rural areas, the share was only 29 per cent.

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

72. Goal 10 calls for reducing inequalities in income as well as those based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status within a country. The Goal also addresses inequalities among countries, including those related to representation, migration and development assistance.

73. Target 10.1 seeks to ensure that income growth among the poorest 40 per cent of the population in every country is more rapid than its national average. This was true in 56 of 94 countries with data available from 2007 to 2012. However, this does not necessarily imply greater prosperity, since nine of those countries experienced negative growth rates over that period.

74. The labour share of GDP, which represents the proportion of wages and social protection transfers in an economy, provides an aggregate measure of primary income inequality. A shift of income away from labour towards capital has contributed to rising inequality. Globally, the labour share of GDP decreased from 57 per cent in 2000 to 55 per cent in 2015, mainly owing to stagnating wages and a

decline in employers' social contributions in developed regions, while the trend was stable or slightly upward in developing regions.

75. Preferential treatment for developing countries and the least developed countries in trade can help reduce inequalities by creating more export opportunities. Major developed country markets already offer duty-free market access to the least developed countries on most of their tariff lines. But even when they do not, as in the case of some agricultural products, the average applied tariff rate is often close to zero per cent. The share of exports from the least developed countries and developing regions that benefitted from duty-free treatment increased from 2000 to 2014, reaching 79 per cent for developing countries and 84 per cent for the least developed countries. The comparative advantage of the least developed countries in duty-free access varies depending on the product groups analysed. Almost all agricultural products from the least developed countries (98 per cent) were exempt from duties by developed countries, versus 74 per cent of products from developing countries. Shares of exports exempt from duties diverged even more for textiles and clothing: the rate for both product groups for the least developed countries was around 70 per cent, while for developing countries it was 41 per cent for textiles and 34 per cent for clothing.

76. Official development assistance and financial flows contribute to reducing inequalities within and among countries. In 2014, total resource flows for development to the least developed countries totalled $55.2 billion, and eight donor countries met the target of 0.15 per cent of gross national income (GNI) for ODA to the least developed countries. Preliminary ODA figures for 2015 show that bilateral net ODA to the least developed countries increased by 4 per cent in real terms, compared to 2014.

77. People migrate for many reasons, including better employment opportunities and higher wages. When successful, many migrants send money back to their country of origin to care of family members. Remittances to developing countries have increased slightly, rising to $431.6 billion in 2015, up 0.4 per cent from 2014. In contrast, global remittances (including those to developed countries) were estimated at $582 billion in 2015, a decline of 1.7 per cent from 2014. Even with the global contraction in remittance flows in 2015, the longer term trend is upward. However, the cost of sending money across national borders is significant, averaging 7.5 per cent of the amount remitted in 2015, down from 10 per cent in 2008 but still above the 3 per cent called for in target 10.c.

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

78. More than half the world's population lives in cities. By 2030, it is projected that 6 out of 10 people will be urban dwellers. Despite numerous planning challenges, well-managed cities and other human settlements can be incubators for innovation and ingenuity and key drivers of sustainable development.

79. However, as more people migrate to cities in search of a better life and urban populations grow, housing issues intensify. Already in 2014, 30 per cent of the urban population lived in slum-like conditions; in sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion was 55 per cent, the highest of any region. Globally, more than 880 million people were living in slums in 2014. This estimate does not include people

in inadequate or unaffordable housing (defined as costing more than 30 per cent of total monthly household income).

80. As population growth outpaces available land, cities expand far beyond their formal administrative boundaries. This urban sprawl can be seen in many cities around the world, and not only in developing regions. From 2000 to 2015, the ratio of the land consumption rate to the population growth rate in Eastern Asia and the Oceania was the highest in the world, with developed regions second. Other regions, such as South-Eastern Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, showed a decrease in that indicator over the same time period. Unfortunately, a low value for this ratio is not necessarily an indication that urban dwellers are faring well, as this can indicate a prevalence of overcrowded slums. Unplanned urban sprawl undermines other determinants of sustainable development. For example, for every 10 per cent increase in sprawl, there is a 5.7 per cent increase in per capita carbon dioxide emissions and a 9.6 per cent increase in per capita hazardous pollution. This illustrates the important interlinkages across the goals and targets.

81. Likewise, managing solid waste is often problematic in densely populated areas. In fact, in many developing regions, less than half of solid waste is safely disposed of. As per capita waste generation continues to rise, the collection and safe disposal of solid waste will continue to require serious attention.

82. Urban air pollution also challenged cities around the world, causing illness and millions of premature deaths annually. In 2014, around half the global urban population was exposed to air pollution levels at least 2.5 times higher than maximum standards set by the World Health Organization.

83. The quest for sustainable and coordinated urban development starts with national policies and regional development plans. As of 2015, 142 countries had a national urban policy in place or under development. Those countries are home to 75 per cent of the world's urban population.

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

84. Economic growth and development require the production of goods and services that improve the quality of life. Sustainable growth and development require minimizing the natural resources and toxic materials used, and the waste and pollutants generated, throughout the entire production and consumption process.

85. Two measures, material footprint and domestic material consumption, provide an accounting of global material extraction and use, as well as flows or consumption of materials in countries. The material footprint reflects the amount of primary materials required to meet a country's needs. It is an indicator of the material standard of living or level of capitalization of an economy. Domestic material consumption measures the amount of natural resources used in economic processes.

86. In 2010, the total material footprint in developed regions was significantly higher than that of developing regions, 23.6 kg per unit of GDP versus 14.5 kg per unit of GDP, respectively. The material footprint of developing regions increased from 2000 to 2010, with non-metallic minerals showing the largest increase.

87. Domestic material consumption in developed regions has diminished slightly, from 17.5 tonnes per capita in 2000 to 15.3 tonnes per capita in 2010. It remains significantly higher than the value for developing regions, which stood at 8.9 tonnes

per capita in 2010. Domestic material consumption per capita increased in almost all developing regions from 2000 to 2010, except in Africa, where it remained relatively stable (around 4 tonnes per capita), and Oceania, where it decreased from around 10.7 to 7.7 tonnes per capita. The rise in domestic material consumption per capita in Asia during that period is primarily a result of rapid industrialization.

88. The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants established international frameworks to achieve the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, chemicals and persistent organic pollutants. With six exceptions, all Member States are party to at least one of those conventions. The number of parties to those conventions rose significantly from 2005 to 2015, particularly in Africa and Oceania. There are now 183 parties to the Basel Convention, 180 to the Stockholm Convention and 155 to the Rotterdam Convention.

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

89. Climate change presents the single biggest threat to development, and its widespread, unprecedented impacts disproportionately burden the poorest and most vulnerable. Urgent action to combat climate change and minimize its disruptions is integral to the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

90. The global nature of climate change calls for broad international cooperation in building resilience and adaptive capacity to its adverse effects, developing sustainable low-carbon pathways to the future, and accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. On 22 April 2016, 175 Member States signed the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The new agreement aims to reduce the pace of climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low-carbon future.

91. Climate change often exacerbates disasters. Between 1990 and 2013, more than 1.6 million people died in internationally reported disasters, with annual deaths trending upwards. As a result, more countries are acting on the imperative to implement national and local disaster risk reduction strategies. In 2015, 83 countries had legislative and/or regulatory provisions in place for managing disaster risk.

92. Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change are responsible for providing a range of national reports on their efforts to implement the agreement. As of 4 April 2016, 161 intended nationally determined contributions, from 189 of the 197 Parties to the Framework Convention (the European Commission submitted one joint intended determined contribution) had been recorded by the secretariat of the Framework Convention, providing insights into the efforts many countries are taking to integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning. Among those countries, 137 parties included an adaptation component in their intended nationally determined contributions. Some countries stressed that adaptation was their main climate change priority, with strong linkages to other aspects of national development, sustainability and security. In order to help countries move forward on climate action, a global stocktaking was established, in the context of the Paris Agreement,

to assess collective progress every five years. The process will begin in 2018, with a facilitative dialogue to review the efforts of parties towards emissions reductions and to inform the preparation of final nationally determined contributions.

93. As parties scale up climate change action, enhanced cooperation, capacity-building and access to financial and technical support will be needed to help many countries realize their priorities, including those identified in intended nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans. Developed countries have committed to mobilizing, by 2020, $100 billion a year in climate financing from a wide variety of sources to help address the needs of developing countries. By 2025, parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will set a new collective goal of at least $100 billion per year. The Green Climate Fund, a mechanism within the Framework Convention created to assist developing countries in adaptation and mitigation practices, is an important delivery vehicle for this financing. As of May 2016, the Green Climate Fund had mobilized $10.3 billion.

94. Climate change is already affecting the most vulnerable countries and populations, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States. The preparation of national adaptation programmes of action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is helping the least developed countries address urgent and immediate needs, with support from the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group. In addition, the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action will help the least developed countries prepare and seek funding for comprehensive national adaptation plans, thereby reducing their risk of being left behind.

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

95. Oceans, along with coastal and marine resources, play an essential role in human well-being and social and economic development worldwide. They are particularly crucial for people living in coastal communities, who represented 37 per cent of the global population in 2010. Oceans provide livelihoods and tourism benefits, as well as subsistence and income. They also help regulate the global ecosystem by absorbing heat and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and protecting coastal areas from flooding and erosion. In fact, coastal and marine resources contribute an estimated $28 trillion to the global economy each year through ecosystem services. However, those resources are extremely vulnerable to environmental degradation, overfishing, climate change and pollution. The sustainable use and preservation of marine and coastal ecosystems and their biological diversity is essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda, in particular for small island developing States.

96. Pollution of both land and seas is a threat in many coastal regions. In addition, since river basins, marine ecosystems and the atmosphere are all part of hydrological systems, the effects of such pollution are often felt far from their source. In many coastal communities, pollution and eutrophication, which is the presence of excessive nutrients in water, frequently owing to runoff from the land, causing dense plant growth and the death of animal life, are driving detrimental changes. The five large marine ecosystems most at risk from coastal eutrophication, according to a global comparative assessment undertaken in 2016 as part of the

Transboundary Water Assessment Programme, are the Bay of Bengal, the East China Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, the North Brazil Shelf and the South China Sea.

97. Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, the ocean has absorbed about one third of the carbon dioxide released by human activities, thereby mitigating the full impact of climate change. However, this comes at a steep ecological price, as dissolved carbon dioxide in seawater lowers the pH level of oceans, thereby increasing acidity and changing the biogeochemical carbonate balance. Concerns about ocean acidification, first expressed in the early 1980s, have now been confirmed, and the extent of its impact on marine ecosystems is being investigated.

98. Fisheries contribute significantly to global food security, livelihoods and the economy. However, if not sustainably managed, fishing can damage fish habitats. Ultimately, overfishing impairs the functioning of ecosystems and reduces biodiversity, with negative repercussions for sustainable social and economic development. In order to achieve a healthy balance, fish stocks must be maintained within biologically sustainable limits, at or above the abundance level that can produce maximum sustainable yields. Based on an analysis of assessed stocks, the percentage of world marine fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels declined from 90 per cent in 1974 to 69 per cent in 2013. Fortunately, the downward trend has slowed and appears to have stabilized since 2008.

99. Biodiverse marine sites require safeguarding to ensure sustainable long-term use of their precious natural resources. Globally, in 2014, 8.4 per cent of the marine environment under national jurisdiction (up to 200 nautical miles from shore) and 0.25 per cent of the marine environment beyond national jurisdiction were under protection. From 2000 to 2016, the share of marine sites around the world that are designated as key biodiversity areas and are completely covered by protected areas increased from 15 per cent to 19 per cent.

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

100. Preserving diverse forms of life on land requires targeted efforts to protect, restore and promote the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and other ecosystems. Goal 15 focuses specifically on managing forests sustainably, restoring degraded lands and successfully combating desertification, reducing degraded natural habitats and ending biodiversity loss.

101. Between 1990 and 2015, the world's forest area diminished from 31.7 per cent of the world's total land mass to 30.7 per cent. The loss was mainly attributable to the conversion of forest to other land uses, such as agriculture and infrastructure development. Meanwhile, other areas were transformed into forests through planting, landscape restoration or the natural expansion of forest. Owing to the balance of the two processes and efforts to slow deforestation, the global net loss of forest area declined from 7.3 million hectares per year in the 1990s to 3.3 million hectares per year during the period from 2010 to 2015.

102. To safeguard places that contribute significantly to global biodiversity, protected areas have been established and identified as key biodiversity areas. In 2014, 15.2 per cent of the world's terrestrial and freshwater environments were covered by protected areas. The percentage of terrestrial key biodiversity areas

covered by protected areas has increased, from 16.5 per cent in 2000 to 19.3 per cent in 2016. Over the same period, the share of freshwater key biodiversity areas that are protected has increased from 13.8 per cent to 16.6 per cent, and the share of mountain key biodiversity areas under protection has grown from 18.1 per cent to 20.1 per cent.

103. The focus in Goal 15 on halting biodiversity loss comes at a critical time, since many species of amphibians, birds and mammals are sliding towards extinction. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List Index, amphibians are declining most rapidly in Latin America and the Caribbean, primarily as a result of the chytrid fungal disease, one of numerous wildlife diseases on the rise worldwide. The greatest extinction risks for birds and mammals are found in South-Eastern Asia, mainly owing to the conversion of lowland forests. However, their decline is not inevitable, with extinction risks for vertebrate species having been reversed in five small island developing States (the Cook Islands, Fiji, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tonga) as a result of conservation actions over the past several decades.

104. Conservation efforts can also be thwarted by poaching and the trafficking of wildlife. Since 1999, at least 7,000 species of animals and plants have been detected in illegal trade, and the list of species under international protection continues to grow. Comparing the size of legal trade in wildlife products (about 900,000 transactions per year) to the quantity of wildlife seized (about 16,000 seizures per year) provides an indication of the scope of illicit wildlife trafficking. The value of legal and illicit wildlife products can also be compared. For example, the value of recorded seizures of Crocodylus genus represents between 0.4 per cent and 0.6 per cent of the value of legal protected exports of this species between 2009 and 2013, with no clear trend discernible.

105. In 2014, bilateral ODA to support biodiversity amounted to $7 billion, an increase of 16 per cent in real terms over 2013. The two largest recipients of biodiversity assistance were the Philippines and India, which together received about $1 billion of the total aid.

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

106. Peace, justice and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions are at the core of sustainable development. Several regions have enjoyed increased and sustained levels of peace and security in recent decades. But many countries still face protracted armed conflict and violence, and far too many people struggle as a result of weak institutions and the lack of access to justice, information and other fundamental freedoms.

107. The number of victims of intentional homicide worldwide remained relatively stable from 2008 to 2014. The worldwide number of victims of intentional homicide was estimated to be between 4.6 and 6.8 per 100,000 people in 2014, a slight decrease with respect to previous years. Yet during that period, the homicide rate in developing countries was twice that in developed countries, and increased in the least developed countries. Moreover, despite the lack of harmonized data, fatalities and injuries related to armed conflict appear to be increasing in some countries, causing unprecedented population displacements and enormous humanitarian needs.

108. Various forms of violence against children are pervasive, including discipline that relies on physical punishment and psychological aggression. In all but 7 of 73 countries and areas with available survey data from 2005 to 2015, more than half of children between the ages of 1 and 14 were subjected to some form of psychological aggression and/or physical punishment at home. In Northern Africa, the share was more than 90 per cent.

109. Globally, the share of girls and boys among victims of human trafficking (21 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively) peaked in 2011. By 2014, the figures had dropped to 18 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively, but were still almost twice the levels recorded for 2004.

110. Sexual violence is one of the most unsettling of children's rights violations. Yet underreporting and the lack of comparable data limit understanding of the full extent of the problem. Survey data from 31 low- and middle-income countries suggest that the proportion of women aged between 18 and 29 who experienced sexual violence for the first time before the age of 18 varies widely, ranging from zero to 16 per cent. Comparable data on the experiences of men are only available for five countries, but values are lower than those reported among women in the same countries.

111. Progress with respect to the rule of law and access to justice is mixed. Globally, the proportion of people held in detention without sentencing decreased slightly, from 32 per cent of total detainees in 2003-2005 to 30 per cent in 2012-2014. However, the percentage for developing regions has consistently been more than two times that of developed regions. In Southern Asia, for instance, more than 2 out of 3 prisoners remained unsentenced in 2012-2014, despite some improvement over the data available for the period 2003 to 2005.

112. Among victims of robbery, between one quarter and one half reported the crime to the police, in 27 countries with available data. The data suggest a significant gap in citizens' access to and trust in authorities. Although official data on the prevalence of bribery are limited, figures from 19 countries indicate that the rate of prevalence of bribery may reach as high as 50 per cent among citizens who had contact with public officials, undermining trust in state institutions.

113. Registering children at birth is a first step in securing recognition before the law and safeguarding individual rights and access to justice. Despite recent progress, the births of more than 1 in 4 children under the age of 5 worldwide have not been recorded. In sub-Saharan Africa, over half (54 per cent) of children have not been registered by their fifth birthday. Globally, children living in urban areas are around 1.5 times more likely to be registered than their rural counterparts. In most regions, birth registration rates tend to be highest among the richest 20 per cent of the population.

114. Efforts are under way to make national and international institutions more effective, inclusive and transparent. Over the past 10 years, nearly two thirds of 144 countries with available data were able to plan their national budgets effectively (where final expenses remained within 10 per cent of original budgets). Voting rights assigned to various groups of countries in international institutions is one indication of inclusivity at the international level. For example, while developing countries account for 63 per cent of voting rights in the African Development Bank, this figure is only 35 per cent in the International Monetary Fund and 38 per cent in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the World Bank Group.

115. A free press is closely linked to access to information and the protection of human rights, but the trend in this regard is discouraging. The number of journalists killed increased from 65 in 2010 to 114 in 2015, despite the fact that, by 2013, 90 States had adopted laws on freedom of and/or access to information.

116. The proportion of countries with national human rights institutions has doubled over the past 15 years, reaching 35.5 per cent by the end of 2015. The share of such institutions that are compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles) (adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/134) was highest in developed regions (46 per cent) and in Latin America and the Caribbean (41 per cent).

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

117. Achieving the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda requires a revitalized and enhanced global partnership that brings together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizes all available resources.[6] Enhancing support to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States, is fundamental to equitable progress for all.

Finance

118. In 2015, net ODA from member countries of the Development Assistance Committee of OECD totalled $131.6 billion. Taking account of inflation and the rise in the value of the dollar in 2015, this was 6.9 per cent higher in real terms than in 2014, and represented the highest level ever reached. Total ODA from those countries as a share of their gross national income was 0.30 per cent, on par with 2014. Most of the increase was owing to higher expenditures for costs associated with refugees. However, even if those costs are excluded, ODA still rose by 1.7 per cent. Seven countries met the United Nations target for ODA of 0.7 per cent of gross national income in 2015: Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

Information and communications technology

119. Fixed-broadband services remain largely unaffordable and unavailable across much of the population in developing regions, highlighting digital divides in access to high-speed, high-capacity Internet services. By 2015, fixed-broadband penetration had reached 29 per cent in developed regions, but only 7.1 per cent and 0.5 per cent, respectively, in developing regions and the least developed countries. Major disparities are also found in Internet use. In developing regions, one third of the population is online versus 1 in 10 people in the least developed countries. Data also reveal that more men than women are online. In 2015, globally, the Internet user penetration rate was about 11 per cent lower for women than for men. The gender gap is even higher in developing regions (15 per cent) and highest in the least developed countries (29 per cent).

[6] The report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development, as transmitted by a note by the Secretary-General, can be seen as a complement to the overview of Goal 17 (see E/FFDF/2016/2).

Capacity-building

120. Net ODA for capacity-building and national planning amounted to $23 billion in 2014; of that total, sub-Saharan Africa received $6 billion and Southern and Central Asia received $4.6 billion. The main sectors receiving assistance were public administration, environment and energy, which together were allocated a total of $9.3 billion.

Trade

121. The weighted average of applied tariffs has been decreasing over time, but still varies widely across regions and country groups on main product sectors. Average agricultural tariffs on imports coming into Asia, for instance, are the highest in the world, at around 27 per cent for Southern Asia and 20 per cent for Eastern Asia in 2015, under most-favoured nation status.

122. In 14 years, the least developed countries' share in world merchandise exports nearly doubled, from 0.6 per cent in 2000 to 1.1 per cent in 2014. The key driver of export growth during that period was a massive rise in the price of fuel, ores and metals, reflecting a high demand in developing countries, notably China. In services, the least developed countries increased their share of world exports to 0.8 per cent in 2014 ($40 billion), up from 0.5 per cent in 2005.

Data, monitoring and accountability

123. The requirements of the indicators developed in the context of the Millennium Development Goals have fostered stronger national statistical plans and systems. The number of countries with a national statistical plan increased in some regions between 2010 and 2015, including in sub-Saharan Africa and the least developed countries. However, the overall number of plans declined from 56 to 54 among the countries being observed, since the time period of some existing plans expired.

124. Financial support for statistical capacity amounted to $325 million in 2013, compared with $379 million in 2010. However, assistance to the least developed countries, in this regard, tripled during the period and reached $265 million. Despite an increasing awareness of the importance of statistics for evidence-based policymaking and development, the share of ODA dedicated to statistics hovered at around 0.3 per cent between 2010 and 2013.

125. Population and housing censuses are a primary source of the disaggregated data needed for formulating, implementing and monitoring development policies and programmes. During the 10-year period spanning from 2006 to 2015, 90 per cent of countries or areas around the world conducted at least one population and housing census.

126. Over the period 2005-2014, birth registration data were available for 183 out of 230 countries or areas, whereas death registration data were available for 157. Only 58 per cent of developing countries with available data have birth registration coverage of 90 per cent or more; 71 per cent of developing countries with available data have death registration coverage of 75 per cent or more. Sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest levels of complete birth and death registration.

III. Ensuring that no one is left behind

127. In launching the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States pledged to leave no one behind. They recognized that the dignity of the individual is fundamental and that the Goals and targets should be met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. Furthermore, they declared their endeavour to first reach those who are furthest behind. Going beyond rhetoric in this regard, however, is no simple matter. As a starting point, it requires an understanding of which population groups are the most disadvantaged, in what way and to what extent. This is only discovered through accurate information that is broken down by age, sex, location of residence and other group characteristics. As stated in the 2030 Agenda: "Quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind. Such data is key to decision-making" (see resolution 70/1, para. 48).

128. The data demands relating to the Sustainable Development Goals are unprecedented, and will require coordinated efforts at the global, regional and national levels. However, even from the data currently available, it is abundantly clear that the benefits of development are not equally shared.

129. The world today is home to 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10 and 24. Children and young people, who are potential agents of change and partners in implementing the 2030 Agenda, face enormous challenges. About one tenth of the child population aged between 5 and 17, with a total number estimated at 168 million, was engaged in child labour in 2012. In 2015, the youth unemployment rate (among young people between the ages of 15 and 24) globally was 15 per cent, more than three times the unemployment rate for adults (4.6 per cent). Moreover, many of the job opportunities available to youth pay less than those available to adults. Globally, while 9.3 per cent of adults were considered working poor in 2015, 15.5 per cent of all employed youth fell into that category.

130. Young people continue to be overrepresented among the direct and indirect victims of violence. Some 200,000 homicides each year, 43 per cent of all homicides globally, involve children and adults between the ages of 10 and 29. Young males have the highest risk of becoming victims of homicide and the highest rates, by far, of being suspected perpetrators of homicide. Children are also among those most affected by human trafficking. This is particularly true in sub-Saharan Africa, where 70 per cent of all trafficking victims were children in 2010-2012. In addition, young people aged between 15 and 24 accounted for an estimated 40 per cent of all new HIV infections worldwide in 2011.

131. While severe income inequality is a challenge in and of itself, it can also affect other aspects of sustainable development. For example, globally in 2015, births in the richest 20 per cent of households were over two times more likely to be attended by skilled health personnel than those in the poorest 20 per cent of households (89 per cent versus 43 per cent). Survey data from 63 developing countries for 2008-2012 show that children from the poorest households are nearly four times more likely to be out of school than their peers from the richest households. An analysis of 87 countries with survey data from 2005-2014 suggests that children from the poorest households are more than twice as likely to be stunted as their richest peers. These differences, if not addressed, can perpetuate current inequalities in income and other aspects of sustainable development.

132. Health-care systems, for instance, tend to be weaker in rural and remote areas, with lower rates of health service coverage than in urban centres. Rural populations also carry a disproportionate burden of disease and death. Survey data from 59 developing countries between 2005 and 2013 show that children from rural areas are 1.7 times more likely to die before the age of 5 as children from urban areas. Significant disparities between rural and urban areas are also found in access to drinking water. In 2015, globally, 96 per cent of the urban population had access to an improved water source, compared to 84 per cent of the rural population. The differences are even more pronounced when looking at piped water. In 2015, 79 per cent of the urban population globally had access to piped water in their homes or premises, versus 33 per cent of the rural population.

133. Persistent inequalities are also found within groups of countries, particularly those in special situations. The least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, for example, all face unique challenges that require focused attention. In 2015, while the prevalence of undernourishment was 12.9 per cent in all developing regions, it was 22.9 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa, 22.7 per cent in landlocked developing countries and 26.5 per cent in the least developed countries. And while 68 per cent of the world's people and 62 per cent of those in developing regions had access to an improved sanitation facility in 2015, the share was just 30 per cent for sub-Saharan Africa and 36 per cent for Oceania.

134. The disaggregated information needed to address all vulnerable groups, as specified in the 2030 Agenda, remains scarce. For example, few of the current indicators can be disaggregated for migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, minorities and indigenous people. A global effort to improve data availability for all population groups, including through improvements in the integration of data sources, has already begun. Further work is needed to enhance the coverage, quality and frequency of data to ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalized people are the first to be reached.

IV. Note on the data and indicators

135. The information presented in the present report is based on a selection of indicators for monitoring progress on the Sustainable Development Goals for which data were available as of May 2016. Details concerning the availability and compilation of data used to measure the indicators are outlined below. Some of the challenges faced by national statistical offices and the international statistical community in the production of such indicators are also set out in the paragraphs that follow, as well as global initiatives under way to address them.

Global indicator framework for the follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals

136. In March 2016, at its forty-seventh session, the Statistical Commission agreed, as a practical starting point, on a global indicator framework proposed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, which would be subject to future modifications (see E/2016/24, chap. I, sect. B, decision 47/101). That set of over 230 indicators is intended for the review of progress at the global level (see E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1, annex IV). Indicators for monitoring at the

regional, national and subnational levels will also be developed at the regional and national levels. The decision of the Statistical Commission recognized that the development of a robust and high-quality indicator framework was a technical process that would require time and that refinements and improvements would be made as knowledge improves and as new tools and data sources become available.

137. Additional indicators to monitor progress in implementing the commitments in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will be presented in the annual report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development.

Data sources, regional groupings and baseline data

138. The national data provided to the international statistical system are often adjusted for international comparability and, where lacking, are estimated. As decided by the Statistical Commission and in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6, estimates used for the compilation of global indicators are produced in full consultation with national statistical authorities. A database of available global, regional and country data and metadata for the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, to accompany the present report, is maintained by the Statistics Division and is available at: http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/.

139. The composition of regions and subregions in the present report is based on United Nations geographical divisions, with some modifications necessary to create, to the extent possible, groups of countries for which a meaningful analysis could be carried out.[7] Although the aggregate figures presented are a convenient way to track progress, the situation of individual countries within a given region may vary significantly from regional averages. As acknowledged by Member States in the 2030 Agenda, work is needed to establish baseline data where these are not yet available.

The tier system and future refinements

140. The indicators agreed upon by the Statistical Commission were provisionally categorized into three tiers by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, as follows:

(a) Tier I: indicators with an established methodology and data already widely available;

(b) Tier II: indicators with an established methodology but insufficient data coverage;

(c) Tier III: indicators for which a methodology is being developed.

141. About 60 per cent of the indicators were provisionally classified as tier I and II, and about 40 per cent as tier III. The present report, the first progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals, is based mostly on indicators classified as tier I or II.

[7] Details of the regional groupings used for the present report will be made available at: unstats.un.org/sdgs.

142. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group will agree on a final classification of the indicators in their Details of the regional groupings used for the present report will be made available at: unstats.un.org/sdgs. respective tiers and will develop a workplan, in consultation with specialized agencies and experts, to establish a methodology for the indicators in tier III. The Group will also discuss available data sources and methodology for improved coverage of tier II indicators and will regularly review methodologies for tier III indicators. Further modifications will be undertaken as a result of improved data availability, new methodologies or interlinkages across targets, and will be reviewed and approved by the Statistical Commission. The Group is also reviewing data flows from the national to the international statistical system in order to streamline and optimize reporting mechanisms. A plan for refining and reviewing the indicator framework will be presented to the Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session, in March 2017.

Improving data quality and availability

143. Data of good quality are vital for governments, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and the general public in order to make informed decisions and to ensure accountability for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. That said, tracking progress on the Sustainable Development Goals requires the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of an unprecedented amount of data and statistics at the subnational, national, regional and global levels, including those derived from official statistical systems and from new and innovative data sources.

144. Several national statistical systems across the globe face serious challenges in this regard. As a result, accurate and timely information about certain aspects of people's lives are unknown, numerous groups and individuals remain invisible, and many development challenges are still poorly understood. In General Assembly resolution 70/1, Member States recognized the crucial role of strengthened data collection and capacity-building and committed to addressing the data gap (see para. 57).

145. Towards that end, in March 2015, the Statistical Commission agreed to establish a High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The High-level Group is tasked with promoting national ownership of the monitoring of progress towards the 2030 Agenda and fostering statistical capacity-building, partnerships and coordination. The Group is currently working on a global action plan for sustainable development data. The road map for the modernization and strengthening of statistical systems addresses all aspects of the production and use of data for sustainable development. It also identifies new and strategic ways to efficiently mobilize resources to accomplish the objective of modernizing and strengthening statistical systems.

146. Where possible, global monitoring should be based on comparable and standardized national data obtained through well-established reporting mechanisms from countries to the international statistical system.[8] Such mechanisms can be improved by strengthening the coordination function of national statistical offices and/or other national institutions. In order to fill data gaps and improve international

[8] A few exceptions exist, such as on an indicator on the international poverty rate, which is produced at the global level only, although it is based on national data.

comparability, countries will need to adopt internationally agreed standards at the national level, strengthen national statistical capacity and improve reporting mechanisms. International organizations and regional mechanisms play a significant role in facilitating the process.

147. The success of all such global initiatives will require capacity-building efforts. In addition, new data sources and technologies for data collection will need to be explored, including through partnerships with civil society, the private sector and academia. The integration of geospatial information and statistical data will also be essential for the production of a number of indicators.